

**FY 2000 Subsistence Fisheries Project Narrative
Project #36**

Project Title: Western Prince William Sound Salmon Escapement Surveys

Investigator Organizations: USFS Chugach National Forest Glacier Ranger District, ADF&G Sport Fisheries & Commercial Fisheries Divisions, and local hires

Geographic Area: Cook Inlet/Gulf of Alaska

Information Type: Harvest Monitoring

Issue Addressed: Escapement counts are necessary to manage commercial, subsistence and sport fisheries at selected sites within western Prince William Sound (PWS). These areas contain small runs of fish that could easily be over-harvested. Because of weather, topography, and heavy canopy cover, it is difficult to obtain aerial estimates at these locations. Additionally, aerial surveys for coho are not conducted at the proposed sites in PWS.

Study Objectives:

1. Conduct ground surveys to determine escapement of sockeye and coho salmon.

Project Description: Known sockeye and coho systems will be surveyed on foot in their entirety to determine overall escapements for a three year study period. Counts for sockeye will not be conducted where there is adequate aerial coverage such as Shrode Lake. Determining biological capabilities of the systems will be conducted as part of another project scheduled for 2001. Sites surveyed will include Shrode Lake, Red Creek, Billy's Hole, Otter Creek, Pigot Bay, and Columbia Lake. This is an ongoing project building upon previous surveys. At some sites we have fifteen years of escapement information collected with this methodology. This project is designed to coordinate with a proposal to conduct creel surveys of Prince William Sound to determine what proportion of the escapement is harvested by sport and subsistence fishermen. The creel survey project design is currently under development for FY 2001.

Consultations Completed/Potential for Capacity Building: This project will be conducted by the USFS coordinated with ADF&G. Andy Hoffman (Sport Fish) and Tim Joyce (Commercial Fisheries) have been consulted and support the project. Gary Kompkoff, and Steve Totemoff of the Tatitlek IRA and Pete Kompkoff of the Chenga IRA have been consulted and encourage these types of projects. Jim Fall (ADF&G, Subsistence) has been contacted and the project was presented at the Southcentral Regional Advisory Council meeting on March 2nd.

Deliverables/Products: Run timing and total escapement by species and location. Data shared with ADF&G and entered into a central GIS database.

Costs: Project funding will be assessed annually and re-authorized by the USFS based on availability of funds and program needs.

Annual Budget Summary	USFS	Local Hires	Total
FY 2000	\$ 5.0 K	\$ 10.0 K	\$15.0 K
FY 2001	\$ 5.0 K	\$ 10.0 K	\$15.0 K
FY 2002	\$ 5.0 K	\$ 10.0 K	\$15.0 K
Total	\$ 15.0 K	\$ 30.0 K	\$45.0 K